

North Queensland Naturalist: Guide for Reviewers

Last updated 9 January 2019

The journal's full Scope and Guide for Authors, along with papers already published in this journal, may be examined at our web-site, www.nqnat.org.

Reviewer anonymity

You have the right to remain anonymous. The only exception is one to which you should have been alerted when being invited to review: if one of the manuscript editors is a co-author of the paper then anonymity is not possible.

However, we encourage supportive collaborations between authors, reviewers and editors to ensure the quality of manuscripts, and this is likely to require waiving of anonymity. If you are prepared to contribute to this process in any way beyond completing the review, please let the Handling Editor know – please do not, in the first place, contact the author(s) directly.

General scope

You can assume that the manuscript has already been vetted for these criteria by the editors and you do not need to comment on these. This is included here as background information.

“The North Queensland Naturalist (NQN) is a peer-reviewed journal of natural history, ecology and conservation, publishing papers about plants, animals, ecosystems and the management of areas for which conservation is a priority. ... Manuscripts may:

- *comprise reports of interesting behaviours or extensions to known range;*
- *present results of surveys or research;*
- *present Indigenous Knowledge;*
- *be reviews, species profiles or identification keys and notes for groups of taxa;*
- *be historical discourse relevant to natural history; or*
- *other related material.*

The journal's geographic scope is tropical Queensland – any part of the state north of the Tropic of Capricorn including far-inland, coastal and adjacent marine areas – and including nearby areas for which there is no alternative journal. ... NQN is not intended to replace or compete with club newsletters: excursion reports, unreferenced observations, species lists without considerable supporting material, and letters to the editor will not normally be considered.”

Types of contributors

“Contributions are welcome from field naturalists, conservation practitioners, students, professional researchers, and other interested persons. The journal particularly encourages submissions from Indigenous people, or people representing Indigenous groups. ... Acceptance for publication is not guaranteed but NQN is supportive of those with original, relevant material, including the work of amateur naturalists. ... Authors can reasonably be expected to revise manuscripts in the light of comments from editors and reviewers. For those not familiar with the scientific process, help with the preparation of manuscripts is available – please contact a member of the panel of editors for assistance.”

We anticipate a diversity of skill levels among contributors. We seek to foster that diversity.

Submissions from experienced researchers may be treated constructively on a similar basis to that of most journals.

In completing a review from authors with limited experience in preparing scientific publications, for example some field naturalists, conservation practitioners and students, your assistance in providing a supportive, learning environment would be appreciated. This may take a variety of forms:

- providing positive feedback as well as pointing out shortcomings that need to be addressed;
- if the expression, grammar and punctuation are reasonable, pointing out and making suggestions where improvement is desirable; if the problems are too widespread for this level of attention, please draw this to the author(s) and Handling Editor's attention;
- recommending, if appropriate, that the author(s) seek assistance with some aspect (e.g. writing, data analysis) of the manuscript; and
- you may care to offer to assist or collaborate with the authors and Handling Editor in bringing the manuscript, or some part of it, up to a standard fit for publication. Please discuss this with the Handling Editor.

Manuscript content

“Manuscripts must be original, unpublished and not under consideration for publication elsewhere. They should be placed in the context of published literature and knowledge, and be appropriately referenced. Manuscripts will generally take the form of a *Research Article*, *Short Note*, *Review* or *Profile* – see the Guide for Authors for more detail.”

We particularly welcome your comments about:

- the originality of the material;
- the adequacy of context provided;
- the appropriateness of the literature cited;
- interpretation and development of ideas;
- the clarity and concision of the presentation including text, figures, tables and appendices; and
- the fit of the material to the manuscript forms detailed above

We anticipate a diverse readership. All manuscripts should be presented succinctly with an emphasis on readability and clear communication. To the extent feasible, manuscripts should be intelligible to interested lay persons (we note this may not always be practical in Methods sections in particular). As *NQN* is a fully on-line journal, space is not severely limited and colour does not incur additional costs. This permits inclusion of some general illustrative material (e.g. photographs) that enhance reader interpretation.

Manuscripts should generally have a single, main message but may have multiple threads of evidence or argument leading to this end. With long manuscripts, your thoughts about the coherence of message and whether the manuscript would be better presented as multiple, shorter papers, would be appreciated.

In considering maps presented, or the need for maps, please note that we are able to provide mapping services for authors who do not have access to GIS services.

Your recommendation

Please convey your recommendation to the Handling Editor and do not include it in your comments to the author. Please recommend one of the following:

- Accept without change
- Accept subject to minor revision as specified
- Reconsider after major revision
- Reject